

Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :

(Torquay) Jane Skelton: 0400 190 580

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(Aireys Inlet) Keith & Mary Bremner: 0427 701 276

Rev Bob Thomas : 0479 169 931



Sunday 14th May 2023

We acknowledge that we meet and worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Find out more at www.wadawurrung.org.au.

Lectionary readings Easter 6 Acts 17:22-31 Ps 66:8-20 1 Pt 3:13-22 Jn 14:15-21

WHY I GO WHERE I GO

I would like to share with you my experience of how I came to worship at Bellbrae and why I have stayed. We had not long arrived in Bellbrae. I had been attending a large church in Geelong, where I had been married and where both my children had been baptised. They were 11 and 9 and becoming reluctant about attending a large Sunday school. It was Palm Sunday 1987 and we had slept in, too late to travel back to Geelong. We drove into Torquay, seeking a church. All the church services were well underway. As we felt too timid to walk in half way through, we turned towards home. As we came to Bellbrae, we noticed the quaint little building on the hill under the pines. It was a church and on the sign it said 11am service. As it was 5 to 11, we timidly pushed open the two heavy wooden swing doors, to surprise six older ladies. They were so delighted to see us. The feeling of warmth and welcome we received entering the quaint little church was palpable. As I sat, I noticed the shadows of swallows, sunning themselves on the window sill outside. A warm glow came through the windows. I remember thinking "I can feel God here." And "I can also sleep in and still go to church. The following Sunday, my children both asked to return again. Up until that time, I was a fringe dweller in the church, an uninvolved attender. During that time God brought many wonderful changes into my life. In this little congregation I became aware that I was loved, valued and needed. It's impossible to be a fringe dweller in a small congregation. I became a part of a spiritual family where everybody works together to support each other. We all take on many tasks. My children both enjoyed participating and taking on responsibilities. They never missed the large Sunday school. Our son and daughter in law chose to be married here. Over the years people come and go as their lives change. The little church in the pines maintains a constant presence, welcoming and nurturing all

who enter its doors. I have become aware that sometimes God has plans for our life that may differ from our own, but take us on a journey of discovery, that on our own, we might never have sought.

Maxine Flakemore

We would love it if others sent in their story about why they worship where they do, to the newsletter to share.



To celebrate National Reconciliation Week the Surf Coast Shire is presenting

From the Heart - An evening with Thomas Mayo

Monday, May 29th, 6.00 - 7.30pm, Surf Coast Shire Council,
1 Merrijig Dve, Torquay.

A free event but bookings essential. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Thomas Mayo is a Kaurareg Aboriginal and Kalkalgal, Erubamle Torres Strait Islander man. He is the author of several books, the most recent being **The Voice to Parliament Handbook**, co-authored with Kerry O'Brien. For the past two years, Thomas has travelled the nation, speaking to small communities and big city gatherings, playing a key role in building the people's movement for a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice.

This keynote address will be followed by an audience Q&A. Book sales and signing will also be available at the event. The evening will commence with a Welcome to Country Ceremony from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners.

A special day for Roma, who is in Italy. They were invited to the British Consulate Coronation celebrations. Here she is enjoying the celebrations with the British Consul.



SURFSIDE SINGERS

present

AUTUMN MELODIES

Songs to warm the heart

Saturday May 20, 2023

2:00 pm

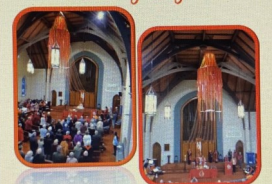
Torquay Uniting Church,

27 Anderson Street, TORQUAY

Following our performance afternoon tea will be provided next door at Oak Tree Place

\$10.00 entry

Combined Pentecost Service
10am Sunday May 28th



Lunch Provided
ALL Welcome
Wadawurrung Uniting Church Geelong 100 Years Street



Torquay will be hosting **"The Biggest Morning Tea"** on the last two Sundays of May – 21st & 28th.

Enjoy the delicious morning tea provided and donate to this great cause.

You can also donate online at <https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/s/60594/84138>

Sunday May 14th

Aireys Inlet 9:30 Rev Bob Thomas Video with
Bellbrae 11:00 worship team
Torquay 9:30am Rev Bob Thomas ... HC.

Sunday May 21st

Aireys Inlet 9:30am Rev Bob Thomas
Bellbrae 11:00 am Rev Bob Thomas
Torquay 9:30am Rev Bob T .. video

NOTE: All our video sermons are available on the Surf-coast website: www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

Surfcoast Uniting Events:

Thursdays at 5pm at Torquay: The choir have begun singing a selection of songs leading up to and including Pentecost.

Thursday Coffee Morning at Bomboras 10:30am. All welcome

Coffee and Kids at Torquay 9:30-11:00 am @ Oak Tree Place

Winter Solstice Lunch at Oak Tree Place : June 23rd... More information to come.



Over the next few weeks we will include information for you concerning The Importance of having a Voice

What is a First Nations Voice? The First Nations Voice is the first proposal contained within the Uluru Statement from the Heart. It is a constitutionally protected body of First Nations people which will advise the Federal Parliament and the executive government on legislation and policy of significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples .

Does the Uniting Church support the Voice? In a joint statement, President of the Uniting Church in Australia Rev Sharon Hollis and Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) Interim National Chair Rev Mark Kickett affirmed their strong support for a Voice to Parliament as a critical step toward honouring the sovereignty of First Nations Australians in this land and furthering the work of truth-telling and treaty. The Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) in March declared the support of the Uniting Church in Australia for the change in the constitution to recognise an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The ASC acknowledged the significance of this moment in our nation's history and committed to resourcing the church in support of the "Yes" campaign. Over the coming months the Assembly will seek to encourage and provide opportunities and resources for respectful dialogue and consideration about the Voice. The Assembly is the national council of the Uniting Church. The Assembly Standing Committee is elected at the Triennial Assembly meeting of the Assembly and has the responsibility of providing governance and leadership to the Church during the Triennium.

Giving Hope on the Coast – Aireys Inlet Uniting Outreach Report and Appeal for Donations

We are reaching the exciting final stages of our project, now that we have finished our training and submitted our Settlement Plan and Group Profile to CRISP. It won't be long before we start the process of being matched with a family who are somewhere overseas in a refugee camp, waiting to be given a fresh start at life here on the beautiful Surf Coast.

To achieve our goals we need your help. We have now launched a public appeal through the online platform Shout For Good. All donations through this site are tax deductible. If you would like to donate click on this link <https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/aireysinletunitingoutreach>

It is also still possible to donate by a direct deposit into our account:

Account name: Surf Coast Uniting Church

BSB: 083-929

Account: 20-987-6337

Please use the reference CRISP and add some identifying information.



Please share this opportunity with family and friends.

NB: Newsletter deadline 4pm Thursday. Email: newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com. ALL news welcome

Thanks to all who are honoring their financial pledges and those who give what they are able, so we may continue to worship and serve our communities. Gifts are valued in electronic or paper format.
Surfcoast Uniting Church.

NAB : BSB: 083-929 & Acc No: 93-009-8403. ADD notes:
Aireys AI3231; Bellbrae BB3228; Torquay TQ 3228

OUR CHURCHES
ON THE SURF-
COAST

Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Rd, Airey's
Bellbrae: Uniting Church. School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae
Torquay: Torquay Uniting Church, 27 Anderson Street, Torquay

BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM :
Uniting Church Hall, School Road. Bellbrae
Open Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 4pm.